

From: Bill Lundell
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/30/01 3:52pm
Subject: Microsoft Give-Away

Re: proposed Microsoft Settlement:

As a U.S. citizen, voter, and user of both Microsoft and Linux operating systems, I feel that the DOJ proposed settlement only furthers Microsoft's monopolistic practices.

While the idea of helping school districts with computers is a fine principle, the proposed settlement mostly allows Microsoft to get credit for giving out their own software at virtually no cost to them. This is obviously a market where the consumer (poorer school districts) would not have been able to purchase at Microsoft's outrageous prices anyway.

Microsoft should at least be credited only for costs of hardware, not the inflated price of their software as if it was sold.

And it should have no license expiration. What good is a 'gift' that has to be returned or paid for later?

Further, since this is about monopolistic practices, it is my opinion that other operating systems and office applications should be part of the deal. Red Hat or another Linux distribution, Star Office or another office application, should be provided. And any cost should be incurred by Microsoft. (The aforementioned products are available free of charge. Only the cost of distribution and manuals would be required.)

Other parts of the settlement are even more difficult. Example: "Microsoft will be required to disclose server protocols and interfaces." Good luck enforcing that! Have you tried to just keep up with the changes required to keep your own computer current from the "Windows Updates". They'll just keep changing the protocols and interfaces so no competitors have a chance. Or they'll find a way to sell a service to keep current, thereby furthering their monopoly and getting paid for it in the process!

You've made a step in the right direction. Please make it a meaningful step.

Sincerely,

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CC: Bill Lundell